



PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No.: 2863.2.1

### DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

I, Alfred Commins, declare: that I am a citizen of the United States of America; that my residence and post office address is ~~970A Guard Street~~, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250; that I verily believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled SHRINKAGE COMPENSATOR FOR BUILDING TIEDOWNS, for which a patent is sought and which is described and claimed in the specification attached hereto; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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I hereby claim the benefit under Section 119 of Title 35 of the United States Code of the earlier filed pending application, Serial No. 60/156,042, filed September 24, 1999; and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the earlier filed pending application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Section 112 of Title 35 of the United States Code, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information, as defined in Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which occurred between the filing date of the earlier filed application and the filing date of this application.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint as my attorneys and/or patent agents those individuals associated with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer No. 21552 with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to A. John Pate at the address associated with Customer No. 21552.

Wherefore, I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Friday Harbor, Washington, this 10 day of April, 2000.  
(City) (State)

Inventor Alfred D. Commins

Alfred Commins  
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Friday Harbor, Washington 98250